



Partners with God: A Vision for our Everyday Vocations

Davisville Church, March 11-12, 2023

What vision do we have for who we are and what we do every day?

How do our everyday occupations connect with God's purposes in the world?

**Partners with God
in His work of restoring all things
through our daily work/vocations**

“God, I’m going to my ministry, where you have called me to work with creativity, excellence and integrity, to display You to others for their flourishing, and to make disciples.

I’m going to work.

Show me what that looks like,
and in whom You want me to invest.”

Sacred/Secular Divide

Some parts of life—typically religious or church things—are sacred and more important to God than other things.

“What would I rather do for a career: teach music or go into ‘full-time ministry’ to communicate God’s Word that can change lives?”

“If you or your pastor goes to work for different reasons, then at least one of you is going to work for the wrong reason.”

Work: mental or physical effort done to achieve a result



Whole-Life Discipleship

“Do all to the glory of God” – 1 Cor. 10:31

***Our work is to be a reflection of God and
means of His work.***

Vocation – “Calling”

“There is no calling unless there is a caller.”

Oz Guinness

Primary Calling: “Called according to His purpose...to be conformed to the image of His Son...”

Romans 8:28-29

Secondary "callings"



God's kingdom assignments







Humanity in God's image: Genesis 1:26-28

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...male and female He created them. God blessed them and God said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over... every living thing’”

Relationship and Reflection of His Glory

“Image”

a reminder of identity, presence and authority

The Image of God



**We reflect
God's love**



RESCUE

*What does the Lord require of you,
but to do justice, to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God?"*



EQUITY



RESTORATION

**We reflect
God's justice**

We reflect God's works





The whole economic system of our vocations is the answer to “give us this day our daily bread”



GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

The Original Great Commission
“multiply and fill the earth”

Vicegerents doing “kingwork”



*Fill the
earth and
subdue it;
and rule
over all...*

Kingwork

“Work derives from and represents the sovereign God who expresses his sovereignty as a worker: *kingwork...*”

...All of our work is intended as an extension of and participation in that sovereignty.”

Eugene Peterson



“The Cultural Mandate”

"Whether we plan it or not, culture will happen. Why not create the culture we want?"

– Carmine Gallo



"A third place
between home and
work—where they
not only celebrated
coffee, but
connection"

*Wherever we are leaders, we are
architects of culture.*



crossworld

All Professions. One Mission.

The way things should be...

SHALOM



“I am making you my steward”

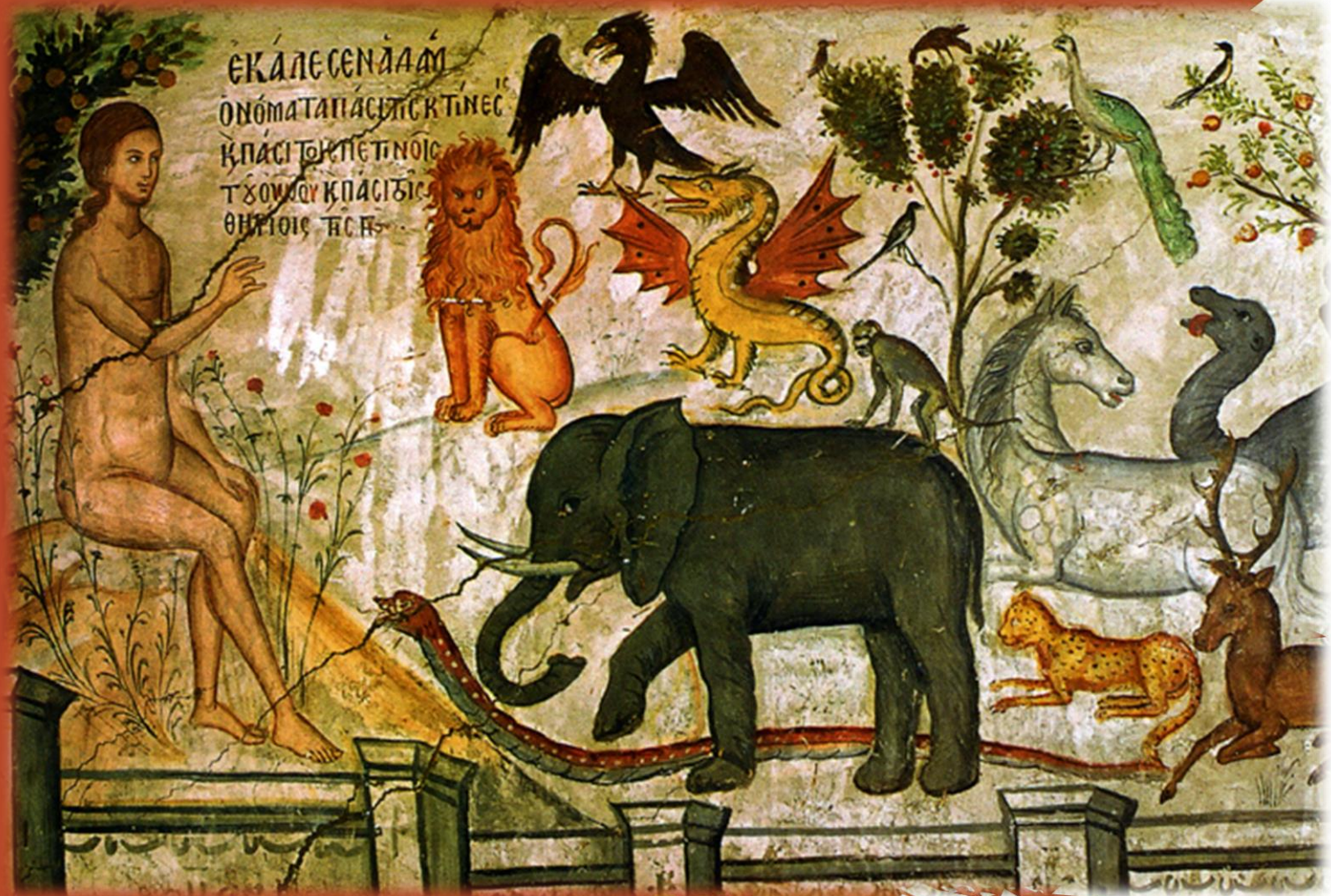


“Our work is an honor, a privileged commission from our great King. God has given each of us a portion of his kingdom to explore and to develop to its fullness.”

Richard Pratt *Designed for Dignity*

*"Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to **cultivate** it and **keep** it..."*

Avodah =
work, worship,
serve



We imitate God in our work

“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all hosts of heaven and earth pause to say, ‘here lives a great sweeper who did his job well.’” MLKing

Our work is our sacred venue to love and serve God and others –

Our place where we create, shape and influence culture and people, reflecting God's love, justice and beauty, bringing flourishing to our world.

It is our venue for making disciples.

Genesis 1 fulfilled?

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, flying from the right side of the frame towards the left. The dove is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The background features a serene landscape with a body of water in the foreground, reflecting the warm light of a setting or rising sun. Several trees with green foliage are scattered across the background, their silhouettes softened by the light. The overall color palette is dominated by warm yellows, oranges, and soft blues, creating a peaceful and hopeful atmosphere.

The way things should be...

SHALOM

God has not rescinded the Genesis 1 mandate!

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, there are several trees with dense foliage in shades of blue, green, and yellow. A large, dark bird with white highlights on its wings is in flight, positioned on the right side of the image. The background is a dark, textured surface with a grid pattern. The word "SHALOM" is written in large, outlined letters across the middle of the image.

SHALOM

Tommaso
Masaccio,
*Expulsion from
the Garden of
Eden*, 1425



His image in us is “macchiato”

**Our world is broken,
people are exploited,
life does not work as God intended**

Jesus Enters

**To reverse the Fall and
restore all things broken**



He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...

...God was pleased...through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross.

Colossians 1:13,19-20

Great Reversal Begins:

- Guilt with forgiveness
- Shame with honor
- Broken relationships with reconciliation
- Injustice with justice
- Oppression with deliverance
- Poverty with economic well-being
- Disease with healing



Antipasto awaiting the banquet

Ministering grace & love as priests and ministers

Direct
access
to God



You are a mediator who stands between God and the people of your workplace in whatever vocation God has called you to:

Representing them to God and God to them



crossworld

All Professions. One Mission.

Practical Implications

Premise: Our whole lives belong to God and His purposes.

Starting point: God's perspective of our identity and everyday work:

We reflect God and are the means of His work

We bear His image

We do kingwork as vicegerents

We shape culture

Questions for our everyday vocations, our portion of the kingdom:

1. What is good that we can promote, celebrate and protect?
2. What is missing that we can contribute?
3. What is evil that we can resist or stop?
4. What is broken that we can restore?
5. Who might you be able to bless?

(#1-4 John Stonestreet)



Questions:

1. What stood out that was helpful to you?
2. What are some of the challenges you face in your everyday vocation to reflect God's love, justice and works?

Shocking example of Israel

“Seek the welfare (shalom) of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the Lord on its behalf.”

Jeremiah 29:7

As exiles, God sends us into the neighborhoods and workplaces of the world to seek His kingdom, their *shalom*.